Installation of small movable water purifying plants

368. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Bhabha Atomic Research Centre or any other research organization of Central Government has developed very cost effective and small movable water purifying plants which can treat water of excessive fluoride and other toxicants;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of the States where such water treatment plants are being utilized;

(d) whether Government propose to install such plants in fluoride effected areas of the country;

(e) if so, the details in this regard; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) and (b) To identify suitable water treatment technologies to provide safe drinking water in rural schools, the Government has constituted a High Level Technical Committee under the chairmanship of the Secretary, Department of Science and Technology. The committee identified six suitable technologies for treatment of contaminated water which includes fluoride contamination and other toxicants, by installing small standalone drinking water purification systems and the same have been informed to all the States.

(c) to (e) To provide safe drinking water in rural schools of the country, a new programme namely 'Jalmani' has been launched in 2008-09 by installing standalone water purification systems using such and other suitable water treatment technologies. Funds to the tune of Rs. 100 crore have been sanctioned to all the States for the same.

(f) Does not arise.

World Bank findings on Rural Water Supply Schemes

369. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the findings of the World Bank Study entitled "Review of Effectiveness of Rural Water Supply Schemes", launched in July, 2008;

(b) the percentage of functional efficacy of the current rural water schemes, flow of funds and expenditure incurred, performance of schemes, cost of supply, household coping strategies and costs, etc.;

(c) whether any study has been made about the rural household willingness to pay and affordability thereof; and

(d) if so, the gist of findings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) to (d) The study was made by World Bank in ten States covering 38,033 rural households, which is 0.027 percent of the total rural households out of the 138,271,559 households listed as per 2001 census. The number of schemes covered in the sample for the study was 765 handpumps and 521 piped water supply schemes. The report has not been accepted by Government of India as the sample studied and analyzed in the report is not representative of all the water supply schemes of the country. The major findings related to percentage of functional efficacy of the current rural water schemes, flow of funds and expenditure incurred, performance of schemes, cost of supply, household coping strategies and costs, rural household willingness to pay and affordability thereof is given in the Statement.

Statement

Major Findings

(i) Rural water supply schemes are commonly weak in performance.

(ii) Rural households are bearing huge coping.

(iii) Supply driven programmes incur large institutional costs, substantially raising the cost of service provision.

(iv) Capital cost of piped water supply schemes is excessive.

(v) Operation and maintenance (O and M) expenditure is inadequate, causing schemes to perform below design and shortening their useful life. O and M cost recovery is low.

(vi) Significant wastage of resources arises from over - provisioning by some schemes, defunct schemes and the existence of multiple schemes.

(vii) Total cost of piped water schemes is much higher than efficient cost of service delivery.

(viii) Economies of scale are yet to be realized.

(ix) Multi village schemes use more resources without commensurate service benefits.

(x) There is strong demand and willingness to pay and service improvements are affordable.

The percentage of functional efficacy of the current rural water schemes, flow of funds and expenditure incurred, performance of schemes, cost of supply, household coping and costs, rural household willingness to pay and affordability thereof:

(i) Compared to the cost norms, the capital cost of schemes is found to be higher by 50% or more in 18% cases. It is higher than the norm by 100% or more in 11% cases.

(ii) The average annual flow of funds for rural water supply during the period 1997-98 to 2005-06 for the 10 states ranged from Rs. 0.8 billion (Punjab) to 8.2 billion (Maharashtra).

(iii) The analysis of survey data on the quantity of water supplied by schemes shows that actual supply is often less than the design, especially in summer.

(iv) The total expenditure on rural water supply schemes from 1993-94 to 2004-05 (2004-05 prices) was about Rs. 500 billion.

(v) The coping strategies adopted by households response to the inadequacies of water supply include traveling considerable distances and standing in long queues to collect water, storing water, incurring expenses on private water sources and incurring expenses on repairing public water sources. The average coping cost per household is Rs. 81 per month ranging from Rs. 32 to Rs. 287 per month across different categories of schemes.

(vi) A study on willingness to pay provides an indication of the value that consumers place on improved water supply and an assessment of the demand for service improvement. The underlying assumption is that if poor households can pay 3 percent of their income towards the water bill, then households with higher income can also spend 3 percent of their income on the water bill. The average expenditure on non-essential items incurred by rural house- holds in various states is commonly more than the estimated willingness to pay and affordability for a private connection. The analysis shows that an additional Rs. 4 billion could be made available each year, if households are charged according to their willingness to pay. With these resources, the coverage can be increased by 14 percent.

Survey regarding implementation of NREG by States

370. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether UPA Government carried out any Survey in June, 2008 to find out which States performed better while implementing the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme;

(b) whether it is a fact Rajasthan ranked No. 1 with 124.71 points to its credit and Maharashtra, first State to implement the scheme, was placed at bottom with 40.85 points on the table; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to give any incentive to States like Rajasthan who have better job scheme record indicating the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) No, Sir. The Government has not carried out any Survey in June, 2008 to find out the performance of States while implementing the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme.

(b) and (c) The Ministry has a comprehensive system for monitoring the implementation of NREGA. Based on the monthly progress reports from States on physical and financial progress, a one-time exercise of suggestive model of ranking on a simple weighted average was shared